

978065

From: Rodriguez, Charles
Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2019 3:19 PM
To: [REDACTED] Pope, Janet; Alcamo, Thomas; Cannon, Phillippa
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: EPA Public Hearings Zone 1

Hi [REDACTED]

In your Sunday, February 17, 2019 email you requested copies of the transcripts of both the Nov. 29, 2018 and Feb. 13, 2019 Public Hearings on EPA'S proposed clean-up for Zone 1 of the USS Lead Superfund site. The transcript for the November 29, 2018 Proposed Plan Public Hearing is available online at the USS Lead website (link below), and hard copies are available at the information repositories located in the East Chicago Public Library branches listed below. As stated at the Feb. 13th public hearing, the transcript for the hearing will be posted on the USS Lead website as soon as it is available and also will be available at both information repositories. Transcripts will be posted on the USS Lead website under the section titled [Key Fact Sheets and Outreach Materials](#).

- [Transcript for the November 29, 2018 Proposed Amendment Plan Public Meeting](#) (145 pp, 1.69 MB)

East Chicago Public Library

Main Library
2401 E. COLUMBUS DRIVE
EAST CHICAGO, IN 46312

Robert A. Pastrick Library Branch
1008 W. CHICAGO AVENUE
EAST CHICAGO, IN 46312

Regards,

 **Charles Rodriguez**

Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S. EPA, Region 5 , Superfund
77 W. Jackson Blvd., SI-6J | Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 886-7472 | rodriguez.charles@epa.gov

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 17, 2019 8:21 PM
To: Pope, Janet <Pope.Janet@epa.gov>; Alcamo, Thomas <alcamo.thomas@epa.gov>; Cannon, Phillippa <Cannon.Phillippa@epa.gov>; Rodriguez, Charles <rodriguez.charles@epa.gov>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: EPA Public Hearings Zone 1

I'm formally requesting a copy of the transcripts of both Public Hearing Meetings on EPA'S proposed clean-up for Zone to be mailed to me at my home as soon as possible without any redactions. I'm requesting these as a Superfund resident.

Dates of Public Hearing Meetings:

* November 29, 2018

* February 13, 2019

My address:

NON-RESPONSIVE

Thanks,

NON-RESPONSIVE

From: [Rodriguez, Charles](#)
To:
Cc:

NON-RESPONSIVE

Subject: RE: USS Lead: EPA proposes removing **NON-RESPONSIVE** residences from Superfund List
Date: Thursday, July 09, 2020 2:50:00 PM

Hi **NON-RESPONSIVE**

Thank you for your comments. I will forward them to our Superfund program.

EPA is eager to receive comments on this proposal. In addition to updating our website, we have mailed a fact sheet to almost 1,000 community residents, emailed community leaders and written to each of the affected property owners notifying them about the proposed change and inviting them to comment or contact EPA with questions. You should receive the fact sheet in the mail soon if you have not already done so.

We also have a fact sheet in Spanish (link below) available on our website as referenced on the English version. I am available to assist any resident who prefers to communicate with EPA in Spanish, and we will mail hard copies of the Spanish version to any resident that requests it.

[EPA Fact Sheet \(Spanish Version\) - La EPA Propone Eliminar Propiedades Residenciales En East Chicago De Lista Nacional De Sitios Superfund](#) (4 pp, 388.5 K, [About PDF](#)) Jul. 2020

Regards,

Charles Rodriguez

Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S. EPA, Region 5 , External Communications Office
77 W. Jackson Blvd., RE-19J | Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 886-7472 | rodriguez.charles@epa.gov

From: **NON-RESPONSIVE**

Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2020 9:40 AM

To: Rodriguez, Charles <rodriguez.charles@epa.gov>

NON-RESPONSIVE

Subject: Re: USS Lead: EPA proposes removing **NON-RESPONSIVE** Indiana, residences from Superfund List

Dear Charles,

You sending this notice via email doesn't notify ALL 671 Property Owners which as a Community Coordinator for EPA you know very well.

EPA NEEDS TO SEND THIS OUT VIA US MAIL THIS NOTICE WITH AN EXPLANATION WHAT IT MEANS IN BOTH SPANISH AND ENGLISH TO ALL 671 PROPERTIES.

EPA should consider having a meeting at Carrie Gosch School where we can Social Distance. Since EPA has not made the intent to contact all 671 Property Owners individually, you need to rectify this matter immediately and you too have to move back the Comment Period Due Date to a later date.

NON-RESPONSIVE

On Wed, Jul 8, 2020, 9:49 AM Rodriguez, Charles <rodriguez.charles@epa.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

Please find below an announcement from EPA regarding the proposed NPL Partial Deletion of residential homes in Zones 2 and 3 of the USS Lead Superfund Site. I have also attached a fact sheet with more details on the proposal.

EPA proposes removing 671 East Chicago, Indiana, residences from Superfund List

EAST CHICAGO, Ind. (July 8, 2020) — Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed the removal of 671 cleaned-up properties at the USS Lead Site from the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL). EPA will take public comments on its proposal from July 8 - August 7, 2020.

To date, lead-contaminated soil has been removed from 95% of the 1,078 properties – mostly residential – in Zones 2 and 3 at the USS Lead Superfund Site. The agency has confirmed that 671 of these properties meet the cleanup level required by a 2012 federal legal agreement, as amended in 2018. These properties have no contamination at-depth and are cleared for residential use. No further action is necessary at these properties, and they pose no unacceptable risk to human health and the environment.

The remaining properties in Zones 2 and 3 will stay on the NPL until lead soil cleanups have been completed and confirmed. EPA continues to investigate possible groundwater contamination in the area.

“EPA is keeping its promise to the people of East Chicago to remove lead from their homes and to improve public health in their hometown by picking up the pace of this Superfund cleanup,” **said EPA Regional Administrator Kurt Thiede**. “And we will keep up that momentum in East Chicago until we finish the job at all the remaining properties.”

Residential properties removed from the USS Lead Superfund Site may be eligible for funding through the city of East Chicago’s Residential Repair Program. Delisting would also enable the city to redevelop vacant lots.

The NPL tracks the nation’s most contaminated sites that threaten human health or the environment. Sites on the list are eligible for cleanup under the Superfund program. EPA removes sites or parts of sites from the list once all the remedies are successfully implemented with no further cleanup. Operations and maintenance, monitoring and five-year reviews continue as required.

EPA’s 30-day public comment period on the proposed partial delisting begins July 8, 2020 and closes August 7, 2020. The public may submit comments via:

Email: cibulskis.karen@epa.gov

Phone: 312-353-6284 (Please leave message with oral comment)

Online: https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA_FRDOC_0001-25646

For more information: <https://www.epa.gov/uss-lead-superfund-site>

Respectfully,

Charles Rodriguez

Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S. EPA, Region 5 , External Communications Office
77 W. Jackson Blvd., RE-19J | Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 886-7472 | rodriguez.charles@epa.gov

From: [Rodriguez, Charles](#)
To: NON-RESPONSIVE
Cc: [Pope, Janet](#)
Subject: FW: Copy of Soil Property Testing
Date: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 12:27:00 PM
Attachments: NON-RESPONSIVE

Hi NON-RESPONSIVE

Please find attached the two soil sampling results letters for your property as requested.

Regards,

Charles Rodriguez

Community Involvement Coordinator

U.S. EPA, Region 5 , External Communications Office

77 W. Jackson Blvd., RE-19J | Chicago, IL 60604

(312) 886-7472 | rodriguez.charles@epa.gov

From: NON-RESPONSIVE
Date: March 14, 2022 at 10:56:05 AM CDT
To: "Pope, Janet" <Pope.Janet@epa.gov>
Cc: NON-RESPONSIVE
Subject: Copy of Soil Property Testing

Hi Janet,

Can you Please forward me a copy of my property NON-RESPONSIVE soil testing results done in fall of 2016. I can't find mine. I do need this right away.

Please let me know at NON-RESPONSIVE and email me the results.

Respectfully yours,

NON-RESPONSIVE



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

April 21, 2017

NON-RESPONSIVE

**Subject: U.S. Smelter and Lead Refinery Inc., Site, East Chicago, IN
Soil Sample Results**

NON-RESPONSIVE

Dear **NON-RESPONSIVE**

On September 13, 2016, EPA sent you a letter reporting results of lead and arsenic sampling at your property. After sharing those results, EPA returned to resample your property to refine the sampling methodology. These new results found elevated levels of arsenic at your property.

This letter includes lead and arsenic results for the soil samples recently collected from your property. The results show that lead and/or arsenic concentrations in soils at your property exceed health-based standards that qualifies your property to be cleaned up. The cleanup of these soils will be done at **NO COST** to you.

Soil testing results for the samples collected on September 27, 2016 from your property are shown in the table below. Samples were taken from 0 to 6 inches, 6 to 12 inches, 12 to 18 inches, 18 to 24 inches, and in some cases 24 to 30 inches below the surface. Cleanup levels are 400 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) for lead and 26 mg/kg for arsenic. The results for your property show that levels of lead and/or arsenic are above cleanup levels at your property.

NON-RESPONSIVE				
Depth	Front Yard – Lead (mg/kg)	Front Yard – Arsenic (mg/kg)	Back Yard – Lead (mg/kg)	Back Yard – Arsenic (mg/kg)
0-6 inches	183	16.5	240	8.9
6-12 inches	110	13	118	8.7
12-18 inches	69.9	89.7	257	11
18-24 inches	36.9	9.1	40.9	6.2
24-30 inches	Native Sand (NS)	Native Sand (NS)	82.8	7.6

Notes: ND = not detected. NS = No samples collected because of native sand or sampling refusal.

Si necesita esta información traducida al español, entre en contacto con Charles Rodriguez, coordinador de participación comunitaria, por teléfono al 312-886-7472 o correo electrónico, rodriguez.charles@epa.gov.

The timing for the cleanup of your property depends on a number of factors. EPA will notify you once it has developed a schedule for future work. Soils above cleanup levels will be excavated up to a maximum depth of 24 inches. Before beginning any cleanup work, representatives of EPA will meet with you to:

- Go over the details of the cleanup plan for your property;
- Document the conditions of the yard, house, and foundation using videos and/or photographs;
- Discuss any of your concerns; and
- Take an inventory of features such as landscaping, plants, bushes, decks, and patios.

The actual cleanup will involve the following steps:

1. Pre-cleanup interview with property owner and documentation of existing conditions (as mentioned above).
2. Excavate contaminated soils.
3. Backfill with clean soil.
4. Restore landscaping and grass.
5. Post-construction interview with property owner.

For the cleanup to be as effective as possible, please wait to do major construction or landscaping activities in the areas with elevated levels until after the cleanup is complete at your property. Activities such as bringing in fill, building a new patio or walkway, or other changes that disturb the soil may keep us from removing and safely disposing of all the contamination because it may be in a different place than when we sampled. If it is necessary for you to make changes like these, please contact me before starting those activities.

The attached sheets explain the effects of lead and arsenic and how to avoid exposure. Children are more sensitive to health effects from lead and arsenic than adults. To ensure the health and safety of children, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry advises parents to prevent children from playing in dirt, to wash their children's toys regularly and to wash their children's hands after they play outside. All residents should remove shoes before walking into their homes.

Please be aware that if you live in housing built before 1978, you may be exposed to other sources of lead including paint and plumbing. Children aged six years and younger are particularly at risk. Blood lead testing is the only way to tell if a person has been exposed to high amounts of lead. The East Chicago Health Department offers **FREE** testing for children. To schedule a test, call the East Chicago Health Department at 219-391-8467. The health department is located at 100 W. Chicago Avenue East Chicago, Indiana.

NON-RESPONSIVE

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Thank you for your patience and cooperation. If you have any questions or would like to discuss your soil sampling results, please contact us using the contact information listed below.

Sincerely,



Timothy Drexler
EPA Remedial Project Manager

Soils will be removed from your property because sampling results showed lead concentrations above 400 mg/kg or arsenic concentrations above 26 mg/kg.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Timothy Drexler

U.S. EPA Remedial
Project Manager

Drexler.Timothy@EPA.gov

312-353-4367

800-621-8431 ext. 3-4367

Janet Pope

U.S. EPA Community
Involvement Coordinator

Pope.Janet@EPA.gov

312-353-0628

800-621-8431 ext. 3-0628

Thomas Alcamo

U.S. EPA Remedial
Project Manager

Alcamo.Thomas@EPA.gov

312-886-7278

800-621-8431 ext. 6-7278

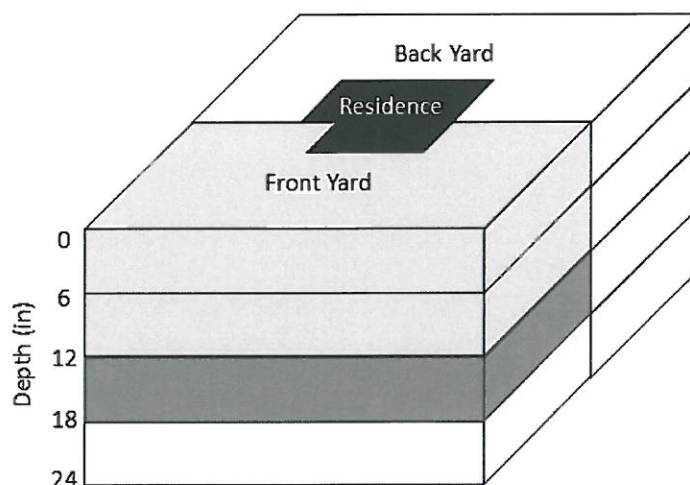


SOIL SAMPLING RESULTS

NON-RESPONSIVE

Depth	Front Yard – Lead (mg/kg)	Front Yard – Arsenic (mg/kg)	Back Yard – Lead (mg/kg)	Back Yard – Arsenic (mg/kg)
0-6 inches	183	16.5	240	8.9
6-12 inches	110	13	118	8.7
12-18 inches	69.9	89.7	257	11
18-24 inches	36.9	9.1	40.9	6.2
24-30 inches	Native Sand (NS)	Native Sand (NS)	82.8	7.6

Notes: ND = not detected. NS = No samples collected because of native sand or sampling refusal.



	Contaminated Soil Will Be Removed at This Depth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soil at this depth contains levels of lead and/or arsenic that are above EPA's removal standards
	Soil at This Depth Will Be Removed to Remove Contaminated Soil Below <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead and/or arsenic contamination is not present above EPA's removal standards in this soil layer, but this soil will be excavated to remove underlying soils with lead and/or arsenic above EPA's removal standards.
	Soil Will Not Be Removed at this Depth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead contamination levels are below EPA's removal standards.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

September 13, 2016

NON-RESPONSIVE

**Subject: U.S. Smelter and Lead Refinery Inc., Site, East Chicago, IN
Soil Sample Results**

NON-RESPONSIVE

Dear **NON-RESPONSIVE**

As you may recall, soil from your property was tested recently for lead and arsenic. This letter reports the lead and arsenic results for the soil samples collected from your property. The results show that cleanup is **NOT** required at your property. More details about the sampling results are below. Please call the number at the end of the letter if you have any questions.

Soil testing results for your property are shown in the table below. Samples were taken from 0 to 6 inches, 6 to 12 inches, 12 to 18 inches, 18 to 24 inches, and in some cases 24 to 30 inches below the surface. Cleanup levels are 400 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) for lead and 26 mg/kg for arsenic. The results for all of the samples collected from your property show that concentrations of lead and arsenic were below these cleanup levels.

NON-RESPONSIVE

Depth	Front Yard – Lead (mg/kg)	Front Yard– Arsenic (mg/kg)	Back Yard– Lead (mg/kg)	Back Yard– Arsenic (mg/kg)
0-6 inches	144	20	142	19
6-12 inches	164	16	97	11
12-18 inches	62	12	Native Sand (NS)	Native Sand (NS)
18-24 inches	Native Sand (NS)	Native Sand (NS)	Native Sand (NS)	Native Sand (NS)
24-30 inches	Native Sand (NS)	Native Sand (NS)	Native Sand (NS)	Native Sand (NS)

Notes: ND = not detected. NS = No samples collected because of native sand or sampling refusal.

Si necesita esta información traducida al español, entre en contacto con Charles Rodriguez, coordinador de participación comunitaria, por teléfono al 312-886-7472 o correo electrónico, rodriguez.charles@epa.gov.

NON-RESPONSIVE

Page 2

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Thank you for your patience and cooperation. If you have any questions or would like to discuss your soil sampling results, please contact me at Drexler.Timothy@EPA.gov or 312-353-4367, weekdays. If I am unavailable, my colleague Janet Pope, Community Involvement Coordinator, may be able to help you. She can be reached at Pope.Janet@EPA.gov or 800-621-8431, extension 3-0628.

Sincerely,



Timothy Drexler
EPA Remedial Project Manager

If you have any questions, please contact:

Timothy Drexler
U.S. EPA Remedial Project Manager
312-353-4367

Janet Pope
U.S. EPA Community Involvement Coordinator
312-353-0628

Muro, Mark

From: Rodriguez, Charles
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2020 2:04 PM
To: **NON-RESPONSIVE**
Cc:
Subject: UNM Professor - East Chicago Visit

Good afternoon,

I'm forwarding contact information for Mr. Clifford Villa, a professor at UNM who will be visiting East Chicago on October 2 and would like to talk to local residents. This is an independent visit, and there will be no EPA employees in attendance.

If you are interested in talking to Mr. Villa, you can contact him directly at his email below.

"For purposes of my research on environmental justice, I believe it is essential to listen and learn from local leaders and residents about how to ensure genuine and meaningful community involvement in cleanup processes. Again, we will there on **Friday, Oct. 2**, and hoping we can find someone to meet us and perhaps show us around the neighborhood."

Clifford J. Villa
Associate Professor
University of New Mexico School of Law
villa@law.unm.edu

Regards,

Charles Rodriguez
Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S. EPA, Region 5 , External Communications Office
77 W. Jackson Blvd., RE-19J | Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 886-7472 | rodriguez.charles@epa.gov

From: [Rodriguez, Charles](#)
To:

NON-RESPONSIVE

Cc: [Pope, Janet](#)
Subject: USS Lead: EPA proposes removing 671 East Chicago, Indiana, residences from Superfund List
Date: Wednesday, July 08, 2020 9:49:00 AM
Attachments: [USS Lead - Proposed Partial Delisting Fact Sheet - July 2020.pdf](#)

Good morning,

Please find below an announcement from EPA regarding the proposed NPL Partial Deletion of residential homes in Zones 2 and 3 of the USS Lead Superfund Site. I have also attached a fact sheet with more details on the proposal.

EPA proposes removing 671 East Chicago, Indiana, residences from Superfund List

EAST CHICAGO, Ind. (July 8, 2020) — Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed the removal of 671 cleaned-up properties at the USS Lead Site from the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL). EPA will take public comments on its proposal from July 8 - August 7, 2020.

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Email: cibulskis.karen@epa.gov

Phone: 312-353-6284 (Please leave message with oral comment)

Online: https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA_FRDOC_0001-25646

For more information: <https://www.epa.gov/uss-lead-superfund-site>

Respectfully,

Charles Rodriguez

Community Involvement Coordinator

U.S. EPA, Region 5 , External Communications Office

77 W. Jackson Blvd., RE-19J | Chicago, IL 60604

(312) 886-7472 | rodriguez.charles@epa.gov